GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3719
ANSWERED ON:21.03.2001
ENCOURAGING OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES
ANANT GANGARAM GEETE

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is encouraging food processing industries based on agriculture products like, food grains, pulses, fruits, flowers, vegetables, oilseeds in various States and particularly Maharashtra.

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to prevent the entry of Multi-National Companies; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not the reasons therefore?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TH. CHAOBA SINGH)

(a) & (b) the Government have taken a number of policy initiatives to promote the growth of the processed food sector in the country including Maharashtra. Under the Plan Schemes ofthe Department of Food Processing Industries (DFPI), which areproject oriented and not State specific, financial assistance is extended to non-Government Organisations, Cooperatives, Public Sector Undertakings, Private Industries, Human Resource Development and Research & Development Institutions etc. for the development of this sector, including setting up/expansion/ modernization of food processing units. However, DFPI does not set up any unit on its own. It has been proposed in the Budget 2001-02 to bring down the current Excise Duty of 16% to Zero level for processed fruits and vegetables. It has also been proposed to give tax holiday for Industrial Estates. The proposed National Food Processing Policy envisages creation of enabling environment for developing this sector and infrastructural facilities etc.

(c) & (d): Items reserved for small scale sector which in the field of food processing inter alia include

i) Pickles & Chutneys
ii) Bread
iii) Vinegar
iv) Confestionery except chocolates, chewinggums.

Govt. policy makes distinction only between SSI and non SSI.